

February 28, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

As a long-time instructor at Charter Oak State College (COSC) and in my current position as COSC Dean of Faculty, I am writing to you to please reconsider the current language in Senate Bill 42, An Act Concerning the Selection Process for Members of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education. In particular, I request that you allow Charter Oak's Academic Council (the equivalent of a Faculty Senate at COSC) to elect its teaching faculty representative and alternate to the Board of Regents Faculty Advisory Committee. The members of this body (which I chair) followed this procedure last year and duly elected a representative that we have confidence will represent the interests of our faculty. This process was selected because many of Charter Oak's teaching faculty members live outside of Connecticut and therefore would have difficulty attending a centralized meeting. The advisory committee representative will attend all of the Academic Council meetings in order to be informed of our academic issues, and to share with us information from the BORFAC meetings. The faculty representative will also be a member of the Distance Learning Teaching Committee, since COSC's internal curriculum is offered as distance learning courses. The Academic Council voted to have the Chair of the Academic Council (Dean of the Faculty) as the alternate.

As a long-time instructor at Charter Oak State College, I have been impressed by the ability of the institution to adapt to the needs of non-traditional students. In order to do this, the organization has benefited from thinking outside of the box and realizing that adopting a "one-size-fits-all" methodology is simply not in the best interest of students or faculty. In this spirit I would ask you to reword SB42 in recognition of Charter Oak State College's unique and important position in Connecticut public higher education.

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